

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE ENGLISH NATION.

Thursday, April 11. 1706.

I have undertaken, being forc'd to it by the Cavils and furious Attacks of a Party, to prove them Guilty of LYING; I confess 'tis a hard Word, and tho' I have often receiv'd such Language from their Party and their Authors, I have carefully shun'd returning it — But what shall an Author do, when Forgeries and Falsities are obtruded upon the World, when he is daily Assaulted with Arguments built on supposes, and things that never had a Being but in the common Mint of Contradiction, where the Devil is the Hammer-Snith, and the High Churchmen blow the Bellows? As the Poet says in another Case,

*The' they're call'd Mifles which fond Men adore,
& cannot gild their Crimes, a Whore's a Whore.*

So when Men will say, and do openly and directly what has no Truth in it;

What shall we say? What Term shall we give it? I can Explain it by nothing but the thing, and must be born with for the Word — They come within the Character of that terrible Text, *Revelations . . . That they are lovers and makers of Lyes.*

And now I come to my Challenge; and were it not that I think they ought to be remembred; I should leave out L—'s confess'd, in Compassion to the Penitents; and on this Account, I had wholly omitted Justice C—'s of Wiltshire, and Mr. S—'s of Sutton, who have both come to the Stool of Repentance, and own'd themselves Guilty both of Lying and Slander; one for a groundless Forgery, upon my Lord Bishop of Salisbury; the other for the like, upon the Duke of Marlboough.

I really pity these Gentlemen, that suffer the Zeal and Heat of a subtle Party, to Trepan them into such Snares, as to be Toolts

to the Party, who then drop them in the Fact, their turn being serv'd, and Expose them to the necessity of publick Repentance.

No sooner had Mr. S——s Copied from these Men, for he owns be only was the Writer, of what his Folly had led him to hearken to, from those that took Pleasure, to give ill turns to every thing; no sooner I say, had Mr. S——s been drawn into this Snare, but the Herald of the Party, the Rehearsal, falls upon all the Whigs, as Authors of this Scandal. Vide the Title of the Rehearsal, N°. 87. The Whigs and Dissenters furiously Attack the Duke of M——h, and another Great Minister, and Quarrel with the Ministry, and in Explaining the Head, Quotes Mr. S——s; but this Slanderer has met with his Fate, is detected by the Humble Acknowledgment of Mr. S——s, who owns, that these very Whigs and Dissenters, for such 'tis plain he meant there, whom that Profligate Slanderer Charges with the Fact, have abandoned him with Indignation for doing it.

Thus the Rehearsal stands Recorded for a Slanderer and Liar; and there I leave him for one of the List.

I next come to Dyer the News-Writer, mention'd in my last —— Whose Talent indeed is so Notorious that way, and who I am inform'd, has so often receiv'd the correction of a R — l, I mean the Kick and the Cane for it, that he ought not to be mention'd; but I take the Story here, not as his, but as he must have an Author for it, who has hitherto been ashame'd to show himself to so Scandalous a thing; for since Dyer could not be on the spot, it must be convey'd to him from the Country.

An Antient Gentlewoman in Exeter, of Untainted Reputation, exact Piety, and perfectly unconcerned in Parties; that conversed with little but Death, and things beyond it, that had been long languishing in Health, confi'd to her House, and in a few Weeks after this Dyed; that knew no more then what Day of the Month it was, than she does now, perhaps not so much; by perfect uncontriv'd Accident, desires her Servant to buy a calves-Head in the Market —— The Person that bought it, being as innocent, as Ignorant of the Consequences, buys it, and both being unacquainted with doing any thing that needed Concealment, brings it home open in her hand, hanging on a Skewer or little Stick —— Would any Man ima-

gine the hard Fate of the Dissenters, that this should be on the 30th. of January, of all Days in the Year? and the High-Church Spies, who failed not to set a watch upon every Calves-Head, that came that day to Market, presently finds this News up to Dyer, the News-Man, and he returns it thus.

A Merchant in Exeter, whose Father was deeply concerned in the Tragedy, of the 30th. of January, had the Impudence, in Ridicule of that Day, to send his Servants through the City with a Calves-Head hanging on a string, where he deserved rather to have been.

Thus Dyer; the occasion is exactly as before —— but as to Fact; First this Gentleman, who is one Mr. Tristram, of Exeter, whose Character I forbear, because I have the Honour particularly to know him, but against whom I never heard the least Objection, by Party-Man or otherwise; is Condemn'd to the String by this Villainous Scribler, with an Insolence peculiar to himself, though he really knew nothing of him, and he nothing of the great Crime we are talking of.

2. His Father is dug out of his Grave again, and Charged with Murther, though it is very odd if he was Guilty; he dyed Aug. 1702. Aged 69, and it will hardly be believed, a Boy of 15 Year Old, could have any great hand in the Kings Death, or be deeply concerned in it, as Dyer most horridly Asserts.

Will any Man wonder, that this Author has so often been Disciplin'd with the Cane, and that he bears it with so much Patience? and if he will take my Advice, it should be, never to come to Exeter, or into Mrs. Tristram's way, who, if he does not think it below him, is as well able to Cane him as the Hacklet Captain.

There's another of their Trumpeters Convict'd of Forgery and Slander, let him defend himself as he can.

The Story of the two Clergymen of Okbampton, who to support the High-Church Cause, sham'd themselves into Justice of the Peace, to Kidnap a poor Fellow into the Army, I need not Repeat here; I leave that Forgery to stand upon Record, where I doubt it will receive its Punishment; I mean, in a Court of Justice.

From hence, I must come to the City of Norwich, and the History of that, though a little Tedious, is very remarkable.

In the late Election there for Members of Parliament, the High-Church-Party, finding that they should be in Danger, of losing their

their two Old Members, and because the Church being in Danger, God Almighty could not support it, without help from the Devil, apply themselves to one of the most barefaced, and most Notorious Frauds, that ever a Mayor and Court of Aldermen set their Hands to in this Age.

They had searched the Characters, of the two New Members to the bottom, to find some slur to throw on them, but found no Dirt would stick there; at last one of their Learned Citizens finds it out, being very cunning, that these Gentlemen were not Freemen of the City, and then searching Antiquity, they find an Old Statute, of 1. Hen. V. Cap. 1. That no Parliament Man should be Chosen for any City, but a Freeman of the said City; and searching among their own Laws, they find, that on the 2nd day of Octob. 1540. a By-Law was made upon that Statute; That if any Freeman voted for any Man to be Member of Parliament for that City, who was not a Freeman of the City, he should be Fined 5*l.* and be Committed till it was Paid.

This served the turn to a Tittle, and the Magistrates of the City Mr. B———b, the Mayor, at the Head of them, prints this By-Law at large, not forgetting to Note their own tender regard for maintaining the Privileges of the Freemen.

To add a Sanction to this Law, they Printed the Oath of a Freeman of Norwich, and enlarged upon every Man's Obligation, to Obey the By-Laws which were made by the City.

Methods also were used, to give the Printer at Norwich such a Check, that he should not dare to Print any thing against it, till after the Election.

Would any Man think now, that there was a Notorious Lye concealed in all this? Would any Man think that this By-Law had been fairly Repealed and that by the same Publick Act of the City of Norwich?

And that the Repeal of it, is to be seen in the City Books, a Copy of which Repeal, I have now by me Dated the 23 Day of September, 1641. being the next Year after it was made? — And not only so, but that these Gentlemen knew it was Repealed, and Conceal'd that part of the Truth from the People, whom they had a mind to deceieve with the other:

These are the Subterfuges of the Party, these the Artifices, by which High-Church is to be Supported; these are the things Dr.

Brown will have to defend, if he pretends to Rehearse the REVIEW, and I dare undertake to furnish him with Supplies, to take up this Paper six Months, in which such horrid Scenes of all sorts of base Practices would appear, that were it not plain, who these Men are, and what they drive at, it would be a Re-proach to the very Nation in general, that it has Nurs'd in its own Bowels such Traytors, to both its Religion and Constitution.

Shall I need to repeat here, the Censure these things receiv'd in Parliament? how Mr. B———b made his Acknowledgment of his Ill Practices, in Custody of the Messengers of the House of Commons, and receiv'd a due Reproof at their Bar upon his Knees; there it stands to testifie, that Suggesting a Law in force, that was Repeal'd above fifty Years before, was telling a Lye in the Face of the whole Nation, and Invading the Privileges of the Freemen.

As to chooing Freeman, 'tis plain, the conuinig Cities to the choice of Freemen, had been out of use in England for many Years; and though the first Statute was in force as not Repeal'd, yet it had been laid by as obsolete; the Votes of the House of Commons had determin'd it otherwise, on frequent occasions, and the Practice of the Elections, had been free in that Case in all the Cities of England.

Shall I now presume to go a step higher, and desire this Gentleman in the next place, to step to one Mr. G. . . . y of C———y, and ask him whether he did not say in a certain House, where nothing but Truth ought to be spoken, that there was no such thing as any Riot, Fighting, or Beating, Wounding, &c. at the Election there, as the Factious Whigs pretend — Then let him come to the Author of this, who will show him if he pleases, the Depositions, with above 20 Affidavits of the particulars, and among them, that his Worship was one of the Ringleaders, and Encouragers of the Mob there against the Magistrates, and against the Queen's Authority.

Then let me entreat him to ask that Gentleman, whether he did not openly, in the hearing of several Members of Parliament affirm, that the Author of this Paper came down to C———y headed the Mob, raised a Tumult, and had like to have done a great deal of Mischief, or to that effect; if the Gentleman is pleased to deny, that he said so, then, upon demand, living Witness of Unquestioned Reputation,

putation shall Affirm it ; and if he owns the Words, then to clear him from the Reproach of a Slanderer and Forger of L... ; it cannot be amiss to desire him to say, who saw it, since nothing in Nature is more true in Fact, than that this Author has not been in, or near the City of C... for seven Year before that Election, till the 23d. of October last, which is some Months after that Election, and denies him or all his Race of Club-Men, to charge him with one Unpeaceable Action there, or any where else in all his Travails.

If these things are so, then there's one of their High Flying Re...atives Recorded with the rest ; and here he stands till a long and black History of that REBELLION, rather than ELECTION in C..., shows it self to the World, which for Peace sake I had conceal'd and suppress'd ; but since my forbearance is thus represented, and they suggest it cannot be Publick, because it is not yet ; I assure them they shall not fail to have every Article in Black and White, fairly presented to the World time enough, to Answer it at the next meeting of Parliament.

One step higher still, shall conclude this Melancholy History of a Prevaricating Party—— And now I must desire this new Rehearsal, to step to Sir T... P... , and enquire if he did not Plead for a certain Noble P... , at the Bar of a certain High Hostie, than which there are not many higher in this World.

There he may enquire of that Learned Gentleman, if he really had not the worst Cause to defend, and the least to say that ever he had in his Life—— But above all, let him enquire, whether that Noble P... did not deny in the said High Houle, that he had ever Pas'd or Sign'd a High Commission Law for a certain Collony, not far from Carolina—— Which afterwards appeared to be actually Signed by his own Hand, and to receive a just Censure from the Peers.

What shall we now say to these things, twould be endless to remind that Gentleman, of all the long Story full of nothing, which he went on with to prove a High Commission Court of Laymen, to dispossess the Clergy in Carolina, was for the good of the Church; a Persecution Act to supplant the Dissenters in Carolina, and a power of Mo-

delling Parliaments there, to be consonant to the Laws of England.

In short, when this Gentleman goes to Sir T... P... 's about this, let him entreat him to give the Author of this leave, to Publish a Letter he has by him, of Remarks on his long Plea at the Lords Bar, in defence of my Lord G... , and a Recapitulation of his Excellent Observations on that Subject ; which when he shall Grant, or perhaps whether he shall Grant is or no, shall take up one or two of these Papers, as much to that Gentleman's Satisfaction, as what he laid, was to the Satisfaction of those that he saw Laugh at him, all the while he was talking.

ERKATA.

Review, N°. 43. p. 170. Col. 1. l. 13. made, r. make ; ib. l. 49. Mistake, r. Mistakes. Col. 2. l. 1. r. I say in one of my Reviews ; ib. ejected, r. rejected ; ib. l. 17. dele (,) after Cange, and which, r. with ; P. 171. l. 48. their, r. there ; ib. Col. 2. l. 30. miger, r. might.

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